Thus the offtake is much less than the allocations.

(c) to (e). Recently, Government of Gujarat had requested vide letter dated 19.9.1996 for increase in allocation of wheat from 53500 MTs to 70000 MTs and rice from 29500 Mts to 35000 MTs every month and additional allotment of 20000 MTs of wheat for September. The State Government has again vide letter dated 16.11.96 requested for increase in allotment of wheat to 70000 tons of wheat. Such communications are considered in the monthly meetings of the Inter-Departmental Committee on allocation of PDS Commodities. The requests from Government of Gujarat were considered in the monthly meetings held on 18.10.96 and 19.11.96. The allotment for the month of December 1996 was increased to 60000 MTs of wheat and 35000 MTs of rice. The allotment of wheat for the month of January 1997 has been further increased from 60000 MTs to 65000 MTs.

Import of Edible Oil

571 SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have imported edible oil during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) if so, the quantum of edible oil imported and the value thereof during the said period;

(c) whether the Government also propose to import edible oil during the remaining period of the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity of edible oil imported by the Government for the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the financial years 1995-96 and 1996-97 and the CIF value thereof year wise, has been as under :

Year	Quantity (in lakh MT)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	2.02	445.56
1996-97*	1.49	295.50

*Upto 31.10.1996

(c) and (d). Presently the Government has not proposal to import edible oil during the remaining period of the current financial year in view of easy availability position of edible oils in the country.

[Translation]

More Rights to States

572 DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to concede more rights to States especially to Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to concede more rights to other States also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (d). The Government has already stated that it is in favour of maximum autonomy for the Sate of Jammu & Kashmir. However, it is not possible or feasible to indicate details in this regard at this stage.

The Government is in favour of devolution of powers and decentralisation of authority in political, administrative and economic spheres. At the second meeting of the inter-State Council held on 15th October, 1996, the Council recognised the need for comprehensive steps towards decentralisation of powers in the realm of Centre-State relations and endorsed the commitment in the Common Minimum Programme to reform Centre-State relations in the light of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission.

[English]

More Powers to States

573 SHRI ANNASAHID M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Ministers meeting recently held at Delhi discussed the major issue of transfer of more powers to the States, disbanding of Central sectors schemes and transfering funds thereunder to the States to formulate and implement schemes of area specific benefit within set priorities and grant of more autonomy to the States;

(b) if so, the details of agenda discussed and concensus arrived at;

(c) details of follow up action taken/proposed to be taken on the issues on which concensus was arrived at; and

(d) the details of progress made so far in delegation of more powers to the States?